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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY Peru

SUBJECT Communist Campaign for Catholic Church Members

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. It is reported that a new technique for recruitment is being employed with some success by Communists in the Cuzco and Arequipa regions. The Communists are making attempts to gain adherents among members of the Roman Catholic Church by stressing the lack of antagonism between Christian doctrines and Communist principles.
2. In their arguments, the Communists appeal to the courageous attitude which should govern all men, to a need for independence of thought, and to the necessity for younger men to take an active part in the betterment of the world.
3. To the argument that Catholics are unable to be Communist, they reply that Communism is not anti-Catholic, that it has no quarrel with the Church, and that to the contrary, it is completely independent of things spiritual. Each in its own place, they maintain, should and does work for the good of the common people.
4. They emphasize that Communist doctrine does not mean that eligible members should forget their religion. Communism is said to be a practical means of carrying out their desires, while Catholicism is a spiritual support, quite permissible and even desirable.
5. A priest who has recently returned from a trip to the Cuzco and Arequipa areas stated that the success of this type of propaganda is caused primarily by a lack of practical religious training.

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